

Protecting the UK's thriving Research and Innovation sector

The UK's research and innovation sector is under increasing threat. Find out about guidance and resources developed specifically to protect these sectors by the NCSC, in collaboration with the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA).

SELECT A TOPIC:

Support for Researchers: Trusted Research

Guidance for researchers, university staff and funding organisations to help keep sensitive research and intellectual property secure.

Support for early-stage tech businesses: Secure Innovation

Guidance and tools for tech startups to help protect your technology, reputation, and future success.

Protecting the UK's research and innovation

We face enduring threats from hostile states and cyber criminals looking to exploit our dependency on the technology that now underpins all aspects of modern life.

Richard Horne, CEO NCSC

The UK has a strong record in research and development and a vibrant startup ecosystem. This can make UK research institutes and innovative UK companies attractive targets for:

- State actors looking to steal technology.
- Competitors seeking commercial advantage.

- Criminals looking to profit from weak security.

The NCSC, in collaboration with the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA), has a set of guidance and resources developed specifically for the UK's research and innovation sector. This is part of a broader programme of work by the NCSC designed to support the sector through direct engagement, close collaboration with partners, and targeted interventions. Find out more about the guidance most relevant to you below, and act now to protect your research and innovation.




Support for Researchers: Trusted Research







Trusted Research is advice and guidance published jointly by NCSC and the NPSA which supports the integrity of the system of international research collaboration. Designed in partnership with the sector, it provides guidance to researchers, university staff and funding organisations to help keep sensitive research and intellectual property secure from theft, misuse or exploitation. Practical resources to help Higher Education Institutions improve their cyber security is available at [Cyber Security for Higher Education Institutions](#).

[View guidance now](#)

Core guidance

	<p>Trusted Research Guidance for Academia</p> <p>Whether you hold sensitive medical data or commercially sensitive information, protecting your research is important to you, your institution and your partners.</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<p>Trusted Research Guidance for Senior Leaders</p> <p>This guide accompanies the Trusted Research booklet and is designed for senior University leaders to have the key issues and questions at their fingertips.</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<p>Trusted Research Guidance for Industry</p> <p>If your research is obtained by a state-backed actor, whether through legitimate means or not, you and your research could be affected in a number of other ways.</p> <p>View guidance</p>

Supporting resources

	<p>Implementation Scenario Videos</p> <p>Short videos designed for academics, based on real events in UK academia to help improve awareness of research security risks and how to mitigate them.</p> <p>View videos</p>
	<p>Campaign Materials</p> <p>As part of the current Pride and Joy campaign, we have produced a range of materials for partner organisations that will support them in their Trusted Research journey.</p> <p>View materials</p>
	<p>Trusted Research Guidance for Countries and Conferences</p> <p>For academics who are involved in international research collaborations this provides guidance on some of the main challenges presented when working or travelling overseas.</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<p>Shared Workspace Guidance</p> <p>Guidance aimed at Users and Providers of shared workspaces, offices, coworking spaces and laboratories to encourage basic security practices and enhance your security awareness.</p> <p>View guidance</p>

Support for early-stage tech businesses: Secure Innovation

SECURE INNOVATION



A campaign backed by

THE FIVE EYES
intelligence partnership

Secure Innovation is a partnership campaign supporting early-stage technology businesses and startups to protect their technology, reputation, and future success. It is part of the five eyes intelligence partnership, delivered in the UK by the NCSC and NPSA



[Start your Personalised Action Plan](#)

Secure Innovation is centered around 5 key principles:



- 1 Know the threats**
Understand the way state-backed and hostile actors could try and get hold of your technology.
- 2 Secure your environment**
Create an effective system for security risk management, incorporating risk ownership, identification, assessment, and mitigation.
- 3 Secure your products**
Build security into your products from the start, and actively protect and manage your intellectual assets.
- 4 Secure your partnerships**
Manage the risks that partnerships with investors, suppliers, and collaborators can bring.
- 5 Secure your growth**

As your company grows, manage the security risks from entering new markets and expanding your workforce.




Get started

	<p>Quick Start Guide</p> <p>This guidance is a valuable starting point for security in your business.</p> <p>View guide</p>
	<p>Personalised Action Plan</p> <p>Answer a few simple questions to get a free personalised action plan that explains what your business can do right now to protect against security threats.</p> <p>Get started</p>

Advice and guidance

	<p>Company Guidance</p> <p>This guidance is for founders or CEOs of innovative startups.</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<p>Investor Guidance</p> <p>This guidance is for early-stage investors in emerging technology companies.</p> <p>View guidance</p>

Supporting resources

	<h3>Background Checks Guidance</h3> <p>Designed to help companies conduct basic background checks which can enable you to make more informed decisions on prospective partners.</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<h3>Travel Security Guidance</h3> <p>Designed to help companies develop a travel security policy to help overcome the main security challenges presented when working or travelling overseas</p> <p>View guidance</p>
	<h3>Scenarios Booklet</h3> <p>Provides scenarios to help illustrate the security threats and how to protect your business from them.</p> <p>View booklet</p>

Secure Innovation Security Reviews Scheme



Applications are now open for innovative early stage tech organisations, with under 250 employees, to apply for a part funded [Secure Innovation Security Review](https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/secure-innovation-security-review/), a scheme developed in partnership between NPSA, the NCSC, Innovate UK, the Department of Business and Trade (DBT), and the Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT). Building on the Secure Innovation campaign, the Secure Innovation Security Reviews provide partial funding for up to 500 organisations in the UK emerging technology sector with direct support and guidance from an approved Security Reviewer to protect their ideas, technologies, reputation, and future success.

The security review will provide a high-level review of an organisations overall protective security posture, considering Protective Security Governance, Security Culture, Risk Management, Cyber Security, Supply Chain and Partnerships, and Incident Management. It is also about informing organisations of security risks, particularly those arising from state threat actors and state backed competitors and helping them to understand how to better protect themselves. The long-term goal is for organisations to integrate protective security into their wider business strategy. It is particularly relevant for spin-outs and start-ups with significant potential to grow.

For more details of the scheme, eligibility and how to apply, visit: <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/secure-innovation-security-review/>

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WRITTEN FOR

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[Public sector](#)

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